

CLAIMS RENUMBERED

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PER Rule 1.126

CLAIMS

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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A bed rail for attaching to a sidewall of a pickup truck, comprising:

a leading end cap and a trailing end cap, each having a pair of spaced-apart tongues; and

an upper elongate member and a lower elongate member, each member having a recess defined in opposing distal ends for matingly receiving a respective tongue of the leading and trailing end caps,

whereby the leading and trailing end caps, being matingly engaged to the upper and lower elongate members, define an elongate bed rail for attachment to a sidewall of a pickup truck.

2. The bed rail as recited in claim 1, wherein the leading end cap and the trailing end cap each include a foot that defines at least one opening for receiving a fastener to secure the respective end caps to the sidewall.

3. The bed rail as recited in claim 1, wherein the lower elongate member defines at least two spaced-apart openings for receiving fasteners to secure the lower elongate member to the sidewall.

4. The bed rail as recited in claim 1, wherein the tongues each define bores; and

wherein the upper and the lower elongate members define openings in respective distal end portions which openings align with the bores; and

further comprising fasteners extending through the aligned openings and bores for securing the end caps to the elongate members.

5. The bed rail as recited in claim 1, further comprising means for supporting an ornamental panel between the upper and the lower elongate members.

6. The bed rail as recited in claim 5, wherein means for supporting comprises the upper and the lower elongate member each defining at least one longitudinally extending channel, the opposing channels aligned for receiving opposing edge portions of the ornamental panel therein.

7. The bed rail as recited in claim 5, further comprising means for illuminating the ornamental panel.

8. The bed rail as recited in claim 7, wherein means for illuminating comprises a light fixture attached to the bed rail and having electrical wires for communicating a supply of electrical current from a source to the light fixture.

9. The bed rail as recited in claim 5, wherein means for supporting comprises the upper and the lower elongate member each defining a pair of spaced-apart longitudinally extending channels, the respective channels in the opposing elongate members aligned for receiving respective edges of an ornamental panel therein.

10. The bed rail as recited in claim 9, further comprising means for illuminating the ornamental panels.

11. The bed rail as recited in claim 9, wherein means for illuminating comprises a light fixture attached to the lower elongate member intermediate the opposing ornamental panels and having electrical wires for communicating a supply of electrical current from a source to the light fixture.

12. The bed rail as recited in claim 1, further comprising means for supporting an ornamental panel in the bed rail.

13. The bed rail as recited in claim 12, wherein means for supporting comprises the lower elongate member defining a longitudinally extending slot for receiving the ornamental panel therethrough.

14. A bed rail for attaching to a sidewall of a pickup truck, comprising:

a leading end cap and a trailing end cap, each having a pair of spaced-apart tongues;

an upper elongate member and a lower elongate member, each upper and lower elongate member having a recess defined in opposing distal ends for matingly receiving a respective tongue of the leading and trailing end caps and each upper and lower elongate member defining a pair of spaced-apart longitudinally extending channels; and

a pair of panels received in respective aligned channels of the upper and lower elongate members,

whereby the panels received in the channels are held therein by the leading and trailing end caps being matingly engaged to the upper and lower elongate members, for attachment to a sidewall of a pickup truck.

15. The bed rail as recited in claim 14, wherein the leading and trailing end caps each include a foot that defines at least one opening for receiving a fastener to secure the respective end caps to the sidewall.

16. The bed rail as recited in claim 14, wherein the lower elongate member defines at least two spaced-apart openings for receiving fasteners to secure the lower elongate member to the sidewall.

17. The bed rail as recited in claim 14, wherein the tongues each define bores; and

wherein the upper and the lower elongate members define openings in respective distal end portions which openings align with the bores; and

further comprising fasteners extending through the aligned openings and bores for securing the end caps to the elongate members.

18. The bed rail as recited in claim 14, further comprising means for illuminating the ornamental panel.

19. The bed rail as recited in claim 18, wherein means for illuminating comprises a light fixture attached to the lower elongate member intermediate the opposing ornamental panels and having electrical wires for communicating a supply of electrical current from a source to the light fixture.

20. A bed rail for attaching to a sidewall of a pickup truck, comprising:

a leading end cap and a trailing end cap, each having a pair of spaced-apart tongues;

an upper elongate member and a lower elongate member, each upper and lower elongate member having a recess defined in opposing distal ends for matingly receiving a respective tongue of the leading and trailing end caps and the lower elongate member defining a longitudinally extending slot therein; and

a panel received through the slot into a gap between the upper and the lower elongate members,

whereby the panel being received by the lower elongate member is displayed upon mounting the bed rail to a sidewall of a pickup truck.

21. The bed rail as recited in claim 20, wherein the leading and trailing end caps each include a foot that defines at least one opening for receiving a fastener to secure the respective end caps to the sidewall.

22. The bed rail as recited in claim 20, wherein the lower elongate member defines at least two spaced-apart openings for receiving fasteners to secure the lower elongate member to the sidewall.

23. The bed rail as recited in claim 20, wherein the tongues each define bores; and

wherein the upper and the lower elongate members define openings in respective distal end portions which openings align with the bores; and

further comprising fasteners extending through the aligned openings and bores for securing the end caps to the elongate members.

24. The bed rail as recited in claim 20, further comprising means for illuminating the panel.

25. The bed rail as recited in claim 24, wherein means for illuminating comprises a light fixture attached to the bed rail and having electrical wires for communicating a supply of electrical current from a source to the light fixture.

26. A bed rail for attaching to a sidewall of a pickup truck, comprising:

an elongate member having a leading end and a trailing end with opposing first and second elongate portions extending therebetween with the first elongate portion defining a longitudinal slot; and

a panel received through the slot into a gap defined between the first and the second elongate portions,

whereby the panel being received through the slot is displayed upon mounting the elongate member to a sidewall of a pickup truck.

27. The bed rail as recited in claim 26, wherein the leading and trailing ends each include a foot portion that defines at least one opening for receiving a fastener to secure the elongate member to the sidewall.

28. The bed rail as recited in claim 26, further comprising means for illuminating the ornamental panel.

29. The bed rail as recited in claim 28, wherein means for illuminating comprises a light fixture attached to the elongate member and having electrical wires for communicating a supply of electrical current from a source to the light fixture.

30. A method of installing a bed rail on a sidewall of a motor vehicle, comprising the steps of:

(a) attaching a first elongate member to a cap edge of a sidewall of a motor vehicle, said elongate member defining at least one channel for receiving an ornamental panel therein;

(b) connecting a first end cap to a distal end of the lower elongate member and to the cap edge of the sidewall;

(c) inserting a panel into the channel;

(d) connecting the first end cap to a distal end of a second elongate member while receiving an opposing edge of the panel in a channel therein; and

(e) attaching a second end cap to an opposing distal end of the first and the second elongate members and to the cap edge of the sidewall.

31. The method as recited in claim 30, wherein step (b) comprises inserting a tongue extending from the first end cap into a recess defined in elongate member.

32. The method as recited in claim 31, wherein the recess comprises a distal end portion of the channel.

33. A bed rail for attaching to a sidewall of a motor vehicle, comprising a pair of elongate members held in spaced-apart relation by a leading end cap and a trailing end cap, the elongate members defining a space therebetween and an ornamental panel disposed in the space, for mounting with fasteners to a cap of a sidewall of a motor vehicle.

34. The bed rail as recited on claim 33, wherein the bed rail defines an opening to the space for receiving the panel therein.

35. The bed rail as recited in claim 34, wherein the opening comprises one of the elongate members defining a longitudinal slot open to the space.

36. The bed rail as recited in claim 35, wherein the bed rail is integral.

37 ~~36~~. The bed rail as recited in claim 34, wherein the opening comprises selectively detaching one of the leading and trailing end caps, whereby the panel slidingly passes therethrough into the space.

³⁸~~37~~. The bed rail as recited in claim ³⁷~~36~~, wherein the elongate member defines a longitudinal slot for receiving the panel.

³⁹~~38~~. The bed rail as recited in claim ³⁸~~37~~, wherein the leading end cap and the trailing end cap define tongues; and

wherein the elongate members define recesses at opposing distal ends configured for matingly receiving the tongues for securing the end caps to the elongate members.

⁴⁰~~39~~. The bed rail as recited in claim ³⁹~~38~~, wherein the tongues each define bores; and

wherein the elongate members define openings in respective distal end portions which openings align with the bores; and

further comprising fasteners extending through the aligned openings and bores for securing the end caps to the elongate members.

⁴¹~~40~~. The bed rail as recited in claim 33, wherein the leading end cap and the trailing end cap each include a foot that defines at least one opening for receiving a fastener to secure the respective end caps to the sidewall.

⁴²~~41~~. The bed rail as recited in claim 33, wherein one of the elongate members defines at least two spaced-apart openings for receiving fasteners to secure the one elongate member to the sidewall.

⁴³~~42~~. The bed rail as recited in claim 33, wherein the elongate members each define at least one longitudinally extending channel for receiving an edge portion of the ornamental panel.

⁴⁴~~43~~. The bed rail as recited in claim 33, further comprising means for illuminating the ornamental panel.

⁴⁵~~44~~. The bed rail as recited in claim ⁴⁴~~43~~, wherein means for illuminating comprises a light fixture attached to the bed rail and having electrical wires for communicating electrical current from a source to the light fixture.